

Monday, October 5, 2020

There is a Board of Selectmen meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 6th via Zoom. Those, who want to tune in, need to go to the town website www.scituatema.gov to get the agenda which includes the link to the meeting.

The full agenda includes appointments to various boards and committees; a discussion of the equity and inclusion statement from the board; and discussion on water and sewer rates and a review of financial policies.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau reported that, since last week, there have been six new COVID cases in Scituate. One is a college student and the others are proper Scituate cases. The town infection rate remains at “yellow” on the state map which is one down from the highest level of “red.”

The town’s 14-day positivity rate last week was 1.49 percent down from 1.77 percent, which, he said, is the number to look at. When that percentage gets above two and starts trending in the high two’s then the town needs to have serious conversation about the reopening plan.

The state is now in Phase 3, Step 2. Outdoor gatherings can now have 100 people; private gatherings are still limited to 25. Bar seating is now allowed with proper social distancing but the patron must be served food.

Mr. Boudreau noted the virus is still very active and urged residents to maintain social distancing, wash hands, and wear masks.

The outdoor watering ban is still in effect. Southeastern Massachusetts is now in an extreme drought. People need to make a concerted effort to conserve water. The Scituate reservoir is down to 28.18 percent. Usage over the past week was 612,000 gallons a day. The town is still issuing violations for outdoor watering. Only hand-held watering cans are allowed from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m.

The Master Plan Community workshop is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 13. The link to register is on the town website. If citizens are interested in the future of Scituate, this is the meeting they should take part in.

The Cedar Point sewer construction project continues. Trunk work should start in next couple of weeks. There will be traffic disruptions. Pedestrians need to be careful and follow directions.

The long-awaited Cole Parkway Marina piling project starts after October 15, coinciding with the closing of the marina. A portion of Cole Parkway will be cordoned off as a lay-down area, resulting in some reduced parking. Maps and changes in the traffic patterns will be on the website later this week.

There was an act of vandalism at the high school athletic field complex over the weekend. Expletives were written in the surface at shot-put area and on an electrical box. Mr. Boudreau said police are investigating and those responsible, if identified, will be prosecuted. He urged athletes of all ages to take pride in the new facility and to not allow others to commit vandalism at the complex. If anyone saw or heard anything, they need to contact the school resource officer or the police.

Superintendent of School, William Burkhead, reiterated what Boudreau said about the importance of pride in the school facilities.

The School Committee is meeting tonight at 6 p.m. Zoom information is on the school website [scituate.k12.ma.us]. At the meeting Mr. Burkhead will present the Superintendent Goals for the year.

Mr. Burkhead said over the course of the last week, the school department has been dealing with incidents involving race at SHS. He issued a video statement on the incidents, which, he said, were extremely hurtful to people of color in the community. The full video statement is available at [scituate.k12.ma.us] under the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion button on the homepage.

Mr. Burkhead said there were no positive COVID cases in the Scituate Public Schools over the past week. The Medical Advisory Committee meets regularly. The school weekly COVID numbers are updated in Thursday Thoughts posted weekly on the school website.